



**Department of Permitting Services**  
 Division of Fire Prevention and Code Compliance  
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

**CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY**

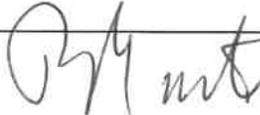
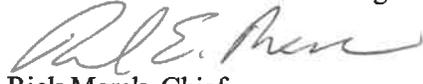
**Interpretation Name: New Accessory Dwelling Units – Sprinkler Protection**

Code/Year	Section of Code	Title of Code Section/Subsection
2015 IRC	Section R313.2	Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems/One- and Two-Family Dwellings automatic fire sprinkler systems
ZTA 19-01	Chapter 59, Sec. 3.3.3	Accessory Residential Uses

**Statement/Background of Issue**  
 The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge a recent Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and to detail the associated Residential Building plan review requirements for automatic sprinkler protection in new ADU's.

**Division Interpretation**  
 These requirements are for any new detached ADU, alterations, or additions to an existing structure for use as an ADU, or conversion of an existing accessory structure to an ADU. An ADU is defined by the provisions in ZTA 19-01.

1. Any newly constructed detached ADU located on the same lot as an existing one- or two-family dwelling must be supplied with an approved automatic suppression system.
2. An existing detached accessory structure not previously approved as a dwelling that is converted into an ADU must be protected throughout by an approved automatic suppression system.
3. Any addition or alteration to an existing dwelling for intended use as an ADU containing an existing automatic sprinkler system must also be provided protection from the existing system or a new approved automatic suppression system.
4. Conversion of a dwelling space, such as a basement, attic, or attached garage in an un-sprinkled dwelling does not require the installation of an approved automatic suppression system.

<b>Interpretation/Policy No.</b> RCI/CB 2020-01	<b>Effective Date</b> February 1, 2020	 George Muste, Chief Division of Residential Building Construction   Rick Merck, Chief Division of Commercial Construction
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